

Minutes – Executive Session
Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters
Department of Public Safety, Bldg B, 1380 Bay St., Taunton, MA 02780
November 5, 2014, 9:50

Executive Session: The Chairman informed the Bureau members that the reason for this Executive Session was to discuss possible violation of the Open Meeting Law while reviewing applications for the grandfathering provision at the last meeting. When the reviews were passed around and reviewed individually by each member, there was not enough open discussion regarding each application. In moving forward, members will be provided copies of applications to be reviewed prior to each meeting, those copies will have private information redacted from them, which would give each member opportunity to review all the applications. Then, at the meeting, each application would be reviewed individually and the decision entered into record. The question was brought up as to what specific violation had occurred with the reviews conducted at the last meeting. The Chairman explained that the applicants being reviewed were not properly identified, there was not an 'open' vote on each application, since the vote of each member was indicated on the paperwork for each application, rather than verbally. It was asked how providing copies of the applications in advance would satisfy the requirement for 'openness'. The Chairman explained that by having the applications in advance, members could review them prior to the meeting, and be prepared to discuss each application in the open meeting forum. Concerns were expressed regarding use of non-secure e-mail addresses for this process; the Chairman explained that he is waiting for instructions from IT regarding the state e-mail addresses for Bureau members. The Chairman summarized that the Executive Session was to make everyone aware that there may have been a violation of the Open Meeting Law, and there is a need to change the process being used. Frank Norton asked if it would be necessary to re-review the applications reviewed at the last meeting; Carrie Torrisi replied that she didn't think so, and that she would follow up on that question. Dan Dumont asked if members who know an applicant personally should recuse themselves from voting on that application. The Chairman and counsel said that they would have to consider this question further and let the Bureau know what restrictions may apply. At this point the Chairman asked for a motion to close this executive session. **Motion made to close the executive session by John Viola, seconded by Jennifer Revill; motion passed by unanimous roll call vote at 10:05.**